

Northwest Woodworkers Association

THE SAWDUST NEWS



April 2014

<http://www.nwoodworkers.org>

An association for woodworkers of all skill levels to share their common interest

The Next Meeting

Date: Thursday, April 24, 2014, 6:30 PM

Location: Woodcraft, 5963 Corson Ave. S., Seattle WA 98108

Program Highlights: Jigs and Fixtures – Members to bring along their favorites and show us what they do

March 2014 Meeting Highlights



Our March 27, 2014 meeting was held at Rockler -- Northgate with 18 members present. We really appreciated the welcome and support of **Lawrence King** and his **Rockler staff**, as well as the table of refreshments. We also thank **Lawrence** for donating the two \$25 Rockler gift cards for our Door Prize drawing tonite. Thanks, folks!

The winners of our two gift card Door Prizes were **Vern Tator** and **Paul Stoops**. Happy woodworking, guys! **Vern** was the Even guy, and **Paul** was the Odd guy – but I guess we knew that already, didn't we..... ☺

Member **Bob Craig** mentioned to the group that he had cut down a large Poplar tree and had cut it into 16-24 inch lengths. He asked that anyone interested in some of the wood to contact him via email to make arrangements for pickup.

Thanks again to **Chris Yee**, for taking the notes used to create this Newsletter. We really appreciate your willingness, **Chris**, to step in and help in the absence of our Secretary **Jan Erickson**. And a thanks to **Scott Wilson** for the great photos.

Show 'N' Tell

(Please see the Photo Gallery on Page 8 for additional photos)



Bob Craig showed us a nicely turned hardwood pen that he had made in a recent class here at Rockler – Northgate. He said that the \$15 fee for the class instruction and material was a great value and the class was a really fun adventure and highly recommended. He noted that the individual class instruction was really great!



Chris Yee brought a unique and nicely crafted puzzle holder with a built-in storage tray he had made for his wife for her birthday. He mentioned the difficulty he had experienced in trying to join the project using hide glue due to the short open time of that adhesive. However, when he switched over to Titebond 3 he was successful. The project was fabricated with splined miter joints to strengthen the corners of the frame. **Chris** also showed us photos of the miter and spline cutting jigs he had made for his table saw. He also recommended Liberty Puzzles as a source for high quality (tho somewhat pricey) hardwood puzzles. Great job on a unique project, **Chris** – thanks for

bringing it along to show us. (<http://www.libertypuzzles.com/>)



New member **Lawrence Brown** showed a unique prototype steam engine he designed and built to run on compressed air. He explained the operation of the engine and some of the unique design features of the project. **Lawrence** demonstrated the operation of the engine by using a hand-operated pump to supply the air for the engine. It was neat to see it in operation.

He explained that this was only a prototype to prove the concept and design and it was made mostly of wood scraps he had around his shop. He said his future plans are to build a working model using nice hardwoods, brass fittings and screws, etc. to dress it up. We were interested in his experiments with air sources – including the manual pump, an air compressor, and the output of his shop vac. He explained that the engine requires a high volume, low pressure air supply, so the air compressor was not a suitable source since it did not provide enough air volume. But he said the output of his shop vac really made it sing! Interesting project, **Lawrence** – thanks for sharing with us. We hope to see the spiffy model in the future.



Brochure Holder Project

We were delighted that **Scott Wilson**, **George Knutson**, and **Dan Ford** brought along the Brochure Holders they had built for displaying our NWWA brochures at our sponsor's facilities.



Scott Wilson showed us two holders he had made using mostly hand tools. They were made from Poplar and Ash plywood and finished with Daly's Profin clear finish. He used steel bolt shanks for the weighted bases. Nice job, **Scott!**

George Knutson brought a finely crafted Brochure Holder made from African mahogany and finished with a water borne finish. The unique joints on the front panel were reminiscent of Greene & Greene joinery. He explained that he didn't have the time to go all the way and put the ebony plugs in the tenons, but it was an eye catcher nonetheless! Great job, **George** in demonstrating some of the unique knowledge and skills present here in our Association.

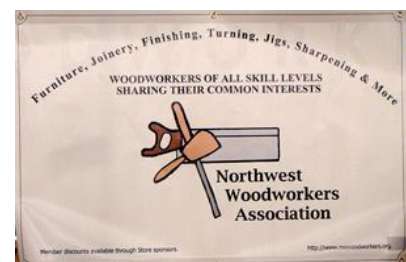


And last, but not least, was the Sapele, Maple, and Cherry Brochure Holder made by **Dan Ford**. He explained that he wanted to challenge himself by using box joints for the construction for the first time. He shared that the first attempt didn't come out too well as he couldn't get the joints to match so he could assemble them. But he solved the problem by assembling the parts in pairs and cutting the box joints in the adjoining panels at the same time, assuring an accurate fit. As you can see from the photo, the technique really worked! **Dan** said he used some old fishing sinkers for the weighted base. Great job, **Dan!**

Thanks to **Allen McCall**, **Herb Stoops**, **Dan Ford**, **George Knutson** and **Scott Wilson** for making very nice holders for our brochures. Also thanks to **Paul Stoops** for the drawings and to **Jan Erickson** for creating the initial brochure. We also want to thank **Allen McCall** for his creative editing to produce the super version of the brochure that we now have on display at **Northgate Rockler**, **Crosscut Hardwoods**, and **Woodcraft**. We hope to put them into the **Southcenter Rockler** store this month. If you know of other places that we might put the brochures please let the **Steering Committee** know. We are especially interested in places that would be sponsors or good sources for Association members. We will prioritize them and get them displayed.

NWWA Banner Project

Bill Bond brought along our new NWWA Banner and displayed it on the front of the demo area. We plan to display the banner at meetings and other functions involving the Association.



Program Presentations

(Please see the Photo Gallery on Page 8 for additional photos)

Lawrence King, Rockler Northgate store Manager, kindly arranged for two of his class instructors, **Badger Roulette** and **Bob Julin**, to be our program presenters for this meeting.

Flat Relief Carving – Brander “Badger” Roulett



Badger Roulett describes himself as a self taught artisan in the craft of Flat Relief Carving. He says his interest stems from a love of history and study of the carved works of New England, Victorian, and Elizabethan artisans. He said he finds inspiration from photos and internet websites which illustrate this type of art form used to decorate all sorts of items from church doors to antique furniture to cabinets and boxes. He also mentioned that he had learned a lot about the craft from the online blog of Peter Follansbee, who is associated with the Port Townsend School of Woodworking (http://www.ptwoodschoo.com/peter_follansbee.html)

Badger says he does all of his work using only hand tools. Early on, he said that he used paper templates to define his carved patterns, but now with more experience, he is able to layout and establish his patterns freehand.



He uses a variety of tools to layout and carve his designs, from dividers to establish and scribe layout lines and pattern outlines, Vee tools to create grooves, gouges to deepen lines, shape

pattern features, and give depth to the carving, and pattern punches to flatten and produce background textures. Typically, he uses a marking gauge to produce pattern outlines, dividers to establish pattern uniformity, and a compass to scribe circles and curves. Some of the pattern features are just established freehand by eye.



Badger mentioned that one can get started in the craft using only a minimal six piece gouge set, such as one offered by Flextool. He said that he sharpens his tools initially with oil stones and then hones them to a fine edge using a leather strop attached to a wooden block. He noted that it is very important to use very sharp tools



and to hone the cutting edges frequently. To that end, he places his strop adjacent to his workpiece for easy access. He said he uses a combination of green rouge and baby oil on his leather strop. He also makes some of his own tools like texturing punches from steel bar stock and large nails by creating the texturing pattern with small files. He also uses common center punches in some of the more restricted areas.

Badger says he uses a variety of wood species for his work. White oak is traditionally used material, but he has used other hardwoods such as Alder, Poplar, and Walnut. He says that some woods like Hard Maple are very difficult to use because they are too hard.

He also demonstrated some of the techniques he uses to produce his intricate patterns by using a sequence of operations as shown below.



Using a gouge to establish a rounded shape



Setting in the pattern



Flattened & textured shape

Badger showed us a wide variety of carved pieces he has created, from long trim pieces with repetitive patterns, to decorated boxes, and a sign he is currently creating for his woodshop.



We really enjoyed **Badger's** presentation about this fascinating Flat Relief Carving art form.

Odie's Oil Finishes – Bob Julin

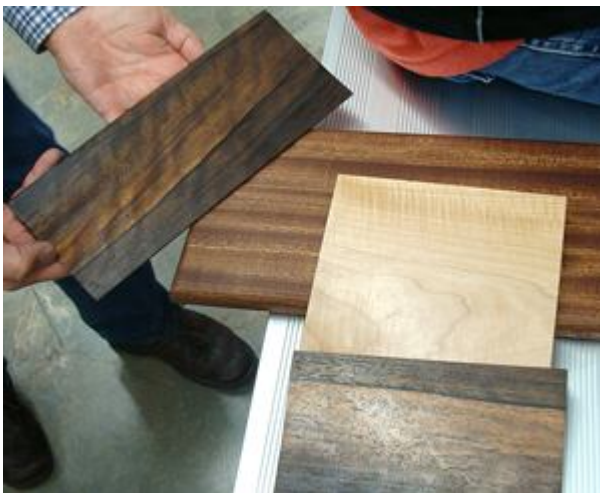


Bob Julin gave us an interesting presentation related to the product line of Odie's Oil (<http://www.odiesoil.com/>) This is a line of all natural products with proprietary formulations, but are known to contain beeswax, natural oils and other ingredients. The whole product line contains natural resins and oils, is non-toxic, and is deemed to be food safe for use on cutting boards, food preparation utensils, counter tops, table tops, floors, and as a friction-applied polish for lathe turned items. These products can be used for indoor or outdoor applications.

The product line includes Odie's Oil original finish, Odie's Oxi Oil, which is an oxidizing finish that darkens wood and increases color contrast over time, Odie's Wood Butter, which tends to keep wooden items a lighter color, and Odie's Wax, which tends to produce a surface with a higher gloss.

Bob described the typical surface treatment to be used with Odie's Oil as follows:

1. Sand the surface with 220 to 400 grit abrasives, depending upon the degree of gloss desired.
2. Apply one coat of Odie's Oil sparingly and rub into surface thoroughly.
3. Allow the oil to penetrate and partially dry for at least 1 hour, and preferably overnight, but not more than a full day.
4. Buff with a soft cloth or a powered buffing pad or wheel.
5. If more gloss is desired, apply a coat of Odie's Wax and allow to dry for at least 2 hours.
6. Buff with a powered buffer or wheel to a high gloss.



Various wood species finished with Odie's Oil



Odie's Oil finish on a walnut burl

We were impressed with the ease of application and finished appearance of this product – definitely worthy of usage on some of our future projects. Thanks, **Bob**, for the presentation.

Steering Committee Report

On behalf of the entire Association membership, the Steering Committee extends best wishes to our long time Newsletter Editor, **Steve Krauss**, upon his decision to leave the Association and turn the publication of the Newsletter over to a new Editor, **Paul Stoops**. We thank **Steve** for his many years of service in publishing the Newsletter and performing as our staff photographer.

We also wish to announce that **Scott Wilson** is our new Staff Photographer. We really appreciate his willingness to step up and do such a great job as our backup photographer for these past many months. Thanks, **Scott!**

We are still in need of additional member presentations and suggestions for future meetings in 2014. Please be proactive and help us formulate the Association meeting schedule for the remainder of the year. This is **YOUR** Association – help us make it all it can be!

A Note from the New Editor

I have been ghost writing the Newsletter input for quite some time, so I welcome this new challenge and opportunity to serve the Association as the new Newsletter Editor. I trust that the changeover will not bring too many surprises. However, I have developed a new format and visual appearance of **The Sawdust News**, which has been supported and approved by the Steering Committee. I hope that this new look will meet with your approval and I welcome your feedback on this new format. Please send any comments or constructive criticisms to me via email at this address: pmstoops@comcast.net

Thank you,
Paul

Upcoming Events

May 2014 Meeting – The membership agreed that we should hold another **Mega Show ‘N’ Tell** at the May meeting. Please plan ahead and bring a project to share along with any jigs and fixtures you used to make it and any photo documentation of the work in progress.

June 2014 Meeting – Program to be determined.

July 2014 Association Picnic – Still in the planning stages – more information later.

August 2014 Meeting – The “**2 X 4 Challenge**” – We had great response and fun with this last year. For photos of last year’s entries, please see the September 2013 Newsletter here: (<http://nwoodworkersorg.ipage.com/newsletters/September%202013%20Newsletter.pdf>) We will be publishing the guidelines for this year’s Challenge in the near future.

March 2014 Photo Gallery

Photos by Scott Wilson



Intently watching the presentations



Layout



Adding Depth

Outlining/Veegrooving

Flattening/Texturing

Four Stages of Flat Relief Carving



Repeating Fleur-de-lis Pattern



Rosette highlighted with shallow gouge



Photos of Antique Flat Relief Carvings



Chris Yee's lovely puzzle holder with storage drawer

Northwest Woodworkers Association Sponsors

We appreciate the generous support provided by our NWWA sponsors, from providing member discounts on purchased items to providing state of the art venues for us to conduct our monthly meetings. Thank you, sponsors!

Crosscut Hardwoods

4100 – 1st Avenue South
Seattle, WA 98134
10% Member Discount

Edensaw Woods

8032 S. 194th St.
Kent, WA 98032

Rockler Woodworking and Hardware – Northgate

832 NE Northgate Way
Seattle, WA 98125
10% Member Discount (not valid on sale items and power tools)

Rockler Woodworking and Hardware – Tukwila

345 Tukwila Parkway
Tukwila, WA 98188
10% Member Discount (not valid on sale items and power tools)

Woodcraft Supply

5963 Corson S.
Seattle, WA 98108
10% Member Discount (not valid on sale items, power tools and workbenches)

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We encourage our members to contact any of the above individuals with questions, comments, or items that may be of interest to the membership.

In addition, please visit our website and forum:

<http://www.nwwoodworkers.org>